THE ORANGE COUNTY
REGISTER

Sweet holidays

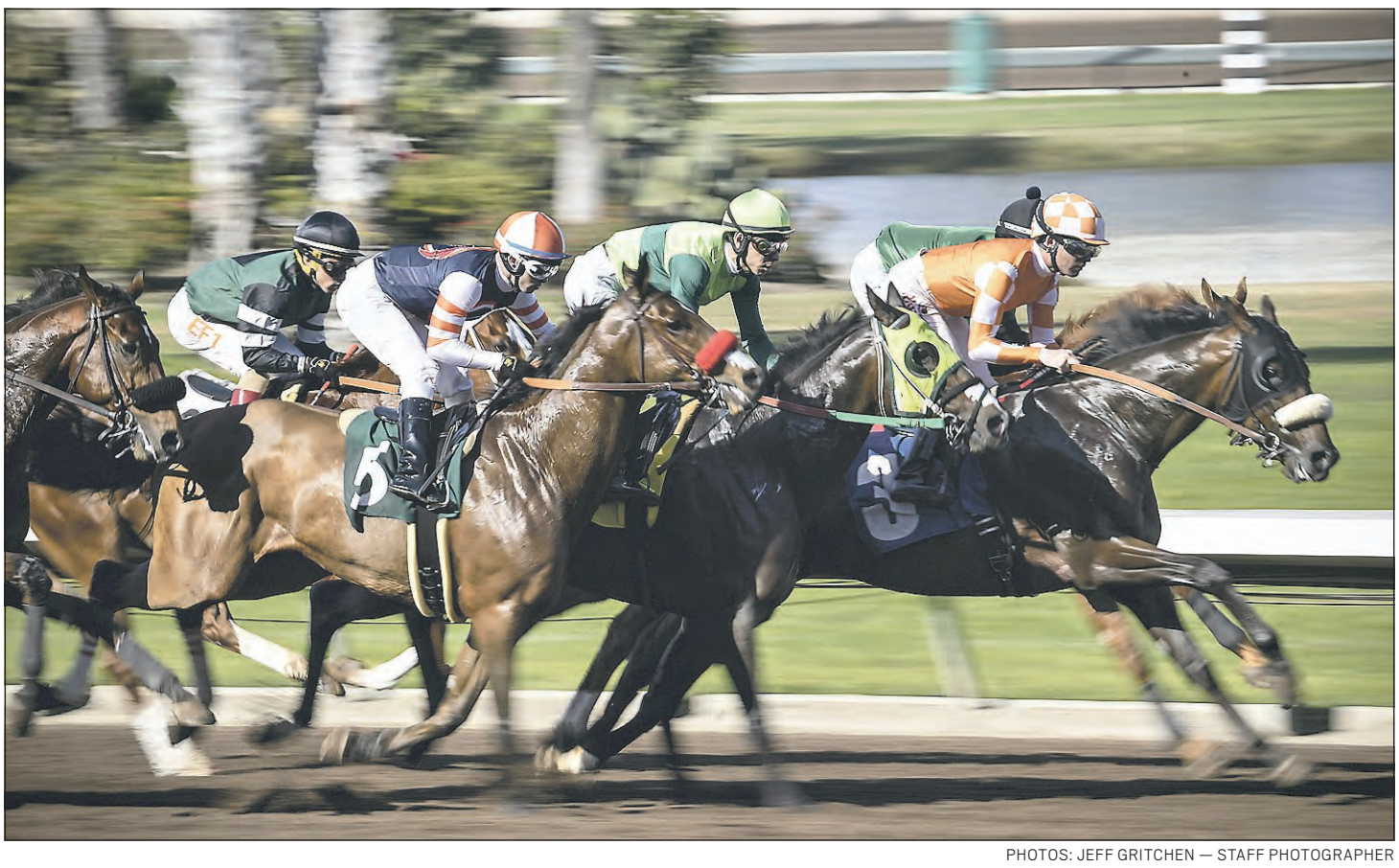
A happy accident leads a blogger to add roasted sugar to her Christmas cookies.

ALSO: Check out the restaurants open on Christmas Eve and Christmas.

LIFESTYLE

Thursday, December 14, 2017 $1.50 FOUNDED IN 1905 FACEBOOK.COM/OCREGISTER TWITTER.COM/OCREGISTER ocregister.com

CYPRESS



PHOTOS: JEFF GRITCHEN — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

As fan support for horse racing has declined, the owner of Los Alamitos Race Course in Cypress is looking at other uses for the property.

A PLAN TO KEEP THE FUTURE ON TRACK

Los Alamitos Race Course's owner seeks to rezone property to allow homes, parks and shops to keep the area thriving in years to come

By Alicia Robinson » *arobinson@scng.com* » *@ARobWriter on Twitter*

Talk with Frank Sherren, the facilities manager at Los Alamitos Race Course, and he will quickly tell you that horse racing won't end anytime soon at the 70-year-old track.

"We don't have any plans to close the racetrack," he said.

Still, owner Edward Allred, a retired doctor, does want a plan in place for the day the sport, which suffers from dwindling fan support overall, just can't keep going on here. Maybe that day is eight years off, or a decade.

In 2016, Cypress residents rejected his proposal to rezone the course and surrounding property with homes and shops — 51.1 percent cast votes against it. Now, he's back with a revised development plan that aims to soothe past opponents' concerns and win at the ballot box.

TRACK » PAGE 14

Phillip Spears cheers on Highland Lass on Dec. 1 in a thoroughbred race at Los Alamitos Race Course in Cypress.

'STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI'

Starstruck legion waiting on the Force

Just a movie? Not to these fans, who say you just have to be there to appreciate the anticipation of that next glimpse into the faraway galaxy

By Peter Larsen
plarsen@scng.com
@PeterLarsenBSF on Twitter

When "Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace" revived the beloved film franchise in 1999, you had one choice if you wanted to see it on opening night: find a line outside a movie theater and wait ... days, weeks, and in some cases, more than a month.

"We had to be first in line," says Peter Genovese, a college student from Northridge at the time, and one of the first four people to line up outside the historic Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, and stay there for six weeks, until "The Phantom Menace" opened there on May 16, 1999.

There were no reserved seats in movie theaters then, no way to guarantee you

MOVIE » PAGE 11

ED CRISOSTOMO — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Caroline "Vader" Ritter, left, of Australia and Jason "Grimlock" Thomas of Whittier have some fun as they strike a pose at the Chinese Theatre in Hollywood on Tuesday. They are the first two in line for tonight's premiere of "Star Wars: The Last Jedi."

LEGISLATION

Republicans bridge gaps to reach deal on tax plan

Bill keeps GOP on schedule for final votes next week

By Jim Tankersley
The New York Times

WASHINGTON » The day after suffering a political blow in the Alabama special Senate election, congressional Republicans sped forward with the most sweeping tax rewrite in decades, announcing an agreement on a final bill that would cut taxes for businesses and individuals and mark the party's first major legislative achievement since assuming political control this year.

Trump

Party leaders in the House and Senate agreed in principle to bridge the yawning gaps between their competing versions of the $1.5 trillion tax bill, keeping Republicans on track for final votes next week with the aim of delivering a bill to President Donald Trump's desk by Christmas.

The House and Senate versions of the tax bill started from the same core principles — cutting

BILL » PAGE 4

PAUL RODRIGUEZ — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PREP FOOTBALL

JT Daniels answers critics on the ground

The Mater Dei quarterback's improved running ability is one reason his team soars into the CIF State Open Division championship Saturday as the No. 1-ranked team in the nation. SPORTS 1

ELECTION

Alabama upset has Democrats energized

They see improbable win in heavily Republican South as sign of growing momentum of anti-Trump sentiment across country. NEWS 3

ECONOMY

Fed raises interest rates

The hike is the fifth since the financial crisis, with three expected in 2018. BUSINESS ON NEWS 15

BASEBALL

Angels acquire Tigers' second baseman

Ian Kinsler, a steady infielder and four-time All-Star, marks the second big acquisition for the team in the past week. SPORTS 1

WEATHER

79/52 Coast | 84/51 Inland

Full weather forecast » LOCAL 10

Customer Service: 714-796-7777

INDEX Abby.....D5 | Business ..A15-16 | Comics .....D4 | Deaths.....B7 | Lottery .....A2 | Opinion ..... B8-9 | Volume 111, issue 348 |